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USAID/OFDA Quarterly Performance Report

Restoring livelihoods and health of conflict-affected communities in South-western District, Central African Republic (IDPs, Returnees, and Host Communities)

Project Dates: Jul 21, 2014 – Jul 31, 2015

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Executive Summary

This report captures progress against planned activities, Indicators and Objectives from July 21st to September 30th 2014. The main activities completed within the reporting period were:

- Objective 1: selection of villages and 50,000 beneficiaries for WASH activities, formation/identification of 30 Water Committees and completion of the Baseline KAP survey;
- Objective 2: meetings were held with the community to discuss the project and to ensure they understand project objectives, 12 Village Beneficiary Committees (VBCs) have been established and trained followed by the selection of 2,000 Households (10,000 beneficiaries) for agriculture activities. A 3-day training on agricultural techniques was held for VBC members (84 participants). This training was focused on gardening techniques to prepare the beneficiaries for vegetable garden development.

There have been some operational challenges during this first quarter which have affected some activities. The most significant was the difficulty in recruiting staff at the beginning of the project which has delayed some activities, particularly in the WASH sector. Most positions have now been filled so it is expected that these delays will be recuperated in the next quarter. The implementation of some activities was also delayed due to security incidences during this quarter in Lobaye.

SECTOR 1: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective 1: *To increase access to safe water and sanitation and improve knowledge of good hygiene practice in the Lobaye prefecture.*

Tearfund held meetings with local authorities and community leaders to select villages for all project activities. Following these discussions, 79 villages located in 5 townships (Mbata, Nola, Lesse, Bogongo-

Gaza and Boda) were selected for project activities. Tearfund carried out an initial Baseline KAP survey in selected villages. A total of 481 households were interviewed using systematic random sampling together with an investigation on water usage and latrine coverage in 4,718 households to complete information for our WASH activities. During this quarter, WASH committees in villages have been established via general elections held in villages under supervision of Tearfund staff.

The delay in the start of the school year has delayed the implementation of activities in schools during this quarter. An official statement has been released announcing the re-opening of schools at the start of November 2014, following which, the project will start implementing those activities. Other activities have been delayed due to delays in the recruitment of staff at the start of the project.

Table 1: Summary of project activities planned and executed during Quarter 1

Activity	Progress / Achievements
Sub-sector 1: Sanitation Infrastructure	
Beneficiary Selection	79 villages were selected according to priorities identified by community members and representatives. The villages were selected according to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of returnees within the past 2 months • Presence of IDPs within the past 2 months • Increased number of malnutrition cases and water borne diseases (particularly diarrhoea) • Villages without water points and/or with broken water points According to the agreed criteria provided above, a total of 56,438 beneficiaries have been identified (51% women) among which 12,203 are IDPs (47% women) in these villages.
School-based Hygiene and Sanitation and Communal Latrines (4 schools)	This activity has not yet started since schools have not yet re-opened. An official government announcement stated that school will start at the beginning of November 2014.
School-based Hygiene and Sanitation Training	This activity has not yet started as schools have not yet re-opened.
Baseline KAP Survey	The survey was conducted in 481 households, 52% of respondents were women. A survey of water use and latrine coverage was conducted for 4,718 households. The analysis of the data collected has been submitted in the Baseline Report.
Sub sector 2. Hygiene Promotion	
Water Safety plans and Water Quality Monitoring	This activity has not developed as planned due to a delay in the establishment of WASH committees. With the WASH committees now in place, this activity will resume in November.
Establishment of WASH Committees (25)	300 individuals have been selected, forming 30 WASH committees (10 people / committee as opposed to the initial 12 people per committee – 25 committees). Among these are 102 women who represent 34% of committee members. Training for these committees is planned for Q2.
Water Point maintenance & repair	This activity has not yet been implemented and is planned for Q2
Hygiene and Sanitation Media	This activity has been planned for Q2
Hygiene Promotion Training (50 promoters in 25 communities)	The selection of promoters has begun. 60% of promoters have been selected. Quotations have been gathered for the Information Education Communication materials (IEC) with procurement continuing in quarter 2, along with PHAST promotion in the targeted villages.
Sub Sector 3. Water Supply	
Rehabilitation of Boreholes (15)	This activity is planned for Q2.
Protection of Shallow Wells (20)	This activity is planned for Q2.
Training of Pump Mechanics (18)	This activity is planned for Q2.

Table 2: Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Sanitation Infrastructure					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefitting from the sanitation infrastructure program	0	40000	0	0
Indicator 2	S1: Number of households with no evidence of faeces in the living area	4560	8000	0	0
Indicator 3	S2: Number of people who report proper disposal of faeces the last time they defecated	Total Observed: 24000 Total Reported: 39600	40000	0	0
		Male Observed: 11670 Male Reported: 10404	19600	0	0
		Female Observed: 12240 Female Reported: 20196	20400	0	0
Indicator 4	S3: Number of people who report using a latrine the last time they defecated	Total Observed: 24000 Total Reported: 39600	40000	0	0
		Male Observed: 11670 Male Reported: 10404	19600	0	0
		Female Observed: 12240 Female Reported: 20196	20400	0	0
Indicator 6	S4: Number of clean HH latrines completed.	0	8000	0	0
Indicator 7	S5: Number of people per usable latrine	12	6	0	0
Indicator 8	S6: Number of hand washing facilities in use	200	5000	0	0
Sub-Sector 2 : Hygiene Promotion					
Indicator 1	Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	50000	0	0
Indicator 2	HP1: Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical moments to wash hands	Total: 540	27000	0	0
		Male: 275	13230	0	0
		Female: 265	13770	0	0
Indicator 3	HP2: Number of HH with soap and water (or ash) at a hand-washing location	160	4000	0	0
Indicator 4	HP3: Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers (Safe Water Handling)	To be assessed in next quarter	7000	0	0
Indicator 5	HP4: Number of HH drinking water supplies with 0 fecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	To be assessed in next quarter	7000	0	0

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Indicator 6	HP7: Number of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training	0	10	0	0
Indicator 7	HP8: Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	0	10	0	0
Sub-Sector 3 : Water Supply Infrastructure					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply program	0	45000	0	0
Indicator 2	WS1: Average litres/person/day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene	2,9	15	0	0
Indicator 3	WS2: Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in litres per person per day	11	15	0	0
Indicator 4	WS3: Number of test results with 0 faecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	To be assessed in next quarter	90	0	0
Indicator 5	WS5: Number of HH collecting water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources	4240	8000	0	0
Indicator 6	WS6: Number of water points which are actively utilizing their Water Safety Plan	0	20	0	0

SECTOR 2: Agriculture and Food Security

Objective 2: *Targeted beneficiary households have restored crop production and consumption*

During this quarter, Tearfund completed the selection of beneficiaries for food security activities according to agreed criteria with the communities. During this quarter, Tearfund also completed the formation of Village Beneficiary Committees (VBCs). The VBCs attended a 3-day training in agricultural techniques, particularly for kitchen gardens in preparation for planting the vegetable seeds that will be distributed to them.

The activities planned in this sector were delayed as discussion with beneficiaries about the choice of seeds took longer than anticipated. This has now been concluded, the seeds chosen are tomatoes, spinach, okra, carrot, cabbage, red onion, cucumber, lettuce, parsley and watermelon. The procurement of the seeds and tools is now underway.

Table 2: Summary of project activities planned and executed during Quarter 1

Activity	Completion
Sub sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production / Food Security	
Beneficiary Selection and formation of VBCs	<p>During this quarter, 12 VBCs have been established, with 10 members in each. The VBCs, together with local authorities, received training on beneficiary selection and principals of transparency, agreed the criteria for beneficiary selection and discussed the importance of objectivity. The following are the agreed selection criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households whose principal income is agriculture • Households who have returned within the past 2 months and existing IDP households • Households with malnourished children • Households headed by women <p>Following this, 1,978 households (355 IDPs and 410 Returnees) were selected to</p>

Activity	Completion
	receive vegetable and crop seeds as well as farming and gardening tools. The program staff will continue to target the remaining households. The list of beneficiaries was published in the targeted villages to allow feedback from other community members. Issues raised were discussed and resolved in community meetings. The final lists have been approved by all community members according to the agreed criteria.
Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution (2,000HH)	This activity did not take place in the reporting period as planned due to staffing delays. However, selection of seeds and tools with beneficiaries is complete and procurement has begun. Distribution will take place in Q2.
Training on cross-cutting issues (1,000 HH)	This activity has not been completed due to delays in staff recruitment during this quarter. This activity will resume in Q2.
Training of VBC and Rural Farmer association (250) on nutritional diversity and techniques of farming	A 3-day training on agricultural techniques was organized for VBC members: a total of 84 members of VBCs (55 men and 29 women) attended this training. This first training was focused on gardening techniques in order to prepare beneficiaries for the development and maintenance of vegetable gardens.
Training of 10 VBCs on income optimization	This activity has not been completed in this quarter due to delays in staff recruitment and will resume in Q2.

Table 4: Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security					
Indicator 1	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.	0	5	0	0
Indicator 2	% of the target population who achieve Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)	64%	80%	0	0
Indicator 3	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex.	0	Total: 10,000	0	0
			Male: 4900		
			Female: 5100		
Indicator 4	Percentage of vegetable seed beneficiary households cultivating vegetable gardens by the end of the project period	0	80%	0	0
Indicator 5	Percentage of trained farmers who are applying soil conservation techniques	0	80%	0	0

BUDGETARY PROGRESS

Overall spending is on track for this quarter. The overall expenditure at the end of Q1 is \$114,818 which is 9.2% of the total budget.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Security:

A security incident in August in Boda resulted in some planned activities being delayed. Fighting broke out in the area on August 21st, 2014 between the Anti-Balaka and Seleka in the area, causing IDPs and the local community to flee to the surrounding areas. They only returned at the end of September. All humanitarian organisations were required to evacuate. This situation has had a direct impact on the selection of beneficiaries for WASH activities, which also meant delays in further associated activities.

Complementary Funding:

We have not been able to secure the grant from CFGB as was originally planned and presented in the OFDA proposal. The initial proposal with OFDA was planned with a logic of the food security activities being supplemented with planned activities and funding from CFGB. However, CFGB has recently informed Tearfund that the funding cannot be secured as planned. These activities with CFGB would have ensured the protection of staple crop seeds in the OFDA project. The current danger would be that instead of planting the seeds distributed in February in the April planting season, beneficiaries would consume them due to lack of other food sources. To mitigate this Tearfund will distribute the crop seeds during the last week of March when the fields are ready for planting.

Human Resources:

There have been some challenges in the recruitment and deployment of staff to Central African Republic for international staff as well as to field sites for national staff. This has been a particular challenge for the WASH roles. Existing Tearfund staff from other project sites as well as some casual staff joined the CAR team on a temporary and short-term basis to enable the initiation of some activities. The roles have now been filled and the delayed activities will be resumed in the coming quarter.

Photos



Launch of the project in Townhall of Mbaiki (left). With government officials and Tearfund staff (right).

Selecting the villages with community leaders and officials (bottom left)

